

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUSAKA 00723 071511Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----005311 071513Z /46

O 071445Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7790
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0723

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MO S Z A RH
SUBJ: PRESIDENT KAUNDA WARNS OF RETALIATION AGAINST RHODESIA

REF: LUSAKA 0722

1. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA BROUGHT UP AS THE FIRST
ORDER OF BUSINESS AT A PRIVATE LUNCH A MESSAGE WHICH HE SAID
PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD ASKED HIM TO GIVE ME FOR PRESIDENT CARTER
RELATING TO THE FIGHTING GOING ON THE SOUTHEASTERN ZAMBIAN
BORDER WITH RHODESIA. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT KAUNDA WANTED
US TO KNOW THAT THE RHODESIANS HAD USED NAPALM IN YESTERDAY'S
AERIAL ATTACKS AGAINST SOUTHERN ZAMBIA. IF THE AERIAL
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ATTACKS OF THE SAME KIND CONTINUED TODAY, ZAMBIA WOULD
HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RETALIATE. PRESIDENT KAUNDA DID NOT
WANT THE U.S. TO BE SURPRISED BY SUCH ACTION. HE HAD
BEEN WILLING TO RESTRAIN HIS FORCES AFTER THE FIRST
ATTACKS IN JANUARY AND FOR THE FIRST DAY OF THIS CURRENT
ATTACK, BUT HE COULD NO LONGER DO SO.

2. I ASKED WHETHER THIS IMPLIED A LOCALIZED RESPONSE OR SOMETHING DIFFERENT BUT CHONA WAS UNWILLING TO GO BEYOND THE ABOVE MESSAGE.

3. COMMENT: THE FACT THAT THE FIGHTING ON THE BORDER HAS NOW BEEN CARRIED BY THE LOCAL RADIO MAKES MORE CERTAIN SOME KIND OF ZAMBIAN RESPONSE ALONG THE LINES OF THE ABOVE WARNING. WHAT WE DO NOT KNOW IS WHETHER THE ZAMBIANS ARE TALKING ABOUT AERIAL ATTACK OR GROUND ACTION AND WHETHER AGAINST MILITARY TARGETS OR CIVILIAN POPULATION CENTERS. THE FACT THEY SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED TO US USE OF NAPALM, PRESUMABLY AGAINST CIVILIANS, WOULD LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF THE LATTER KIND OF RETALIATION. ZAMBIAN ARMED FORCES ARE SO INFERIOR IN EVERY BRANCH TO THOSE OF RHODESIA THAT IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY SUCH RETALIATION. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT THEY WOULD NOT DO IT.
LOW

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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